

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters.

Claims 2, 7, 12 and 13 are all the claims currently pending in this application as of entry of this Amendment. Claims 5 and 11 were previously cancelled. Applicant thanks the Examiner for entering the RCE filed on July 26, 2005, and for indicating that claims 12 and 13 are allowable. Furthermore, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's concurrence regarding the compliance of claims 2 and 12 with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (OA page 2).

II. 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-10 and 14 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Brennan, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,873,461) (*Brennan*) in view of *Tang* (U.S. Patent No. 5,073,738) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-10, and 14 are herein canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

III. Allowable Subject Matter.

The Examiner objects to claims 2 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that the same would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 2 and 7 are herein amended to independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/816,348
ART UNIT 2834

DOCKET NO. Q63433

Conclusion

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any over-payments to said Deposit Account.

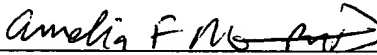
Respectfully submitted,

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